

STATE SENATOR • MICKEY SWITALSKI • 10TH DISTRICT

Switalski Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7315 • Fax: 517-373-3126
E-mail: senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD10



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 27, 2006**

**CONTACT: STATE SENATOR SWITALSKI
PHONE: (517) 373-7315**

Switalski Proposal Aims To End Mid-Decade Redistricting

Switalski amendment calls for limiting redistricting to once every 10 years

(Lansing)- State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) introduced a joint resolution on January 18 calling for a constitutional amendment to eliminate the partisan politics in redistricting congressional and state legislative seats.

“It has been an unwritten rule for the past 200 years that redistricting is held once every ten years,” said Switalski. “Recently, opportunists have abused the redistricting process for partisan gain. This is wrong and this constitutional amendment would prevent Michigan from going on the same path.”

Senate Joint Resolution I would limit the redistricting and apportionment of legislative and congressional districts to once every ten years, following the Census. Former United States House Majority Leader Tom Delay engineered a special mid-decade redistrict once his party gained control of the Texas Legislature. They then passed a partisan plan that eliminated five of their opponents.

“My constitutional amendment calls for redistricting to be done by the traditional schedule so that the public’s confidence in its integrity is ensured,” said Switalski. “The Texas experience breaks with fair play that undermines the democratic process.”

Senate Joint Resolution I is currently in the Senate Government Operations Committee where it awaits further consideration. If the proposal passes the Michigan Legislature with a two-thirds majority, it would go before voters in the next general election.

###